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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2504  
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RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
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RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY  
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY  
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RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 3655  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 5993  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 1329  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 4192  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 7456  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 8940  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2822  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 4962  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4766  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - U.S.-RUSSIA RELATIONS

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Front-page items this morning included an IMF report released on Tuesday estimating that potential write-downs by financial institutions around the world from 2007 through 2010 could total nearly \$4.1 trillion.

¶2. "Medvedev Expresses Concern about U.S. Advantage" The liberal Mainichi wrote from Moscow (4/22): "While expressing a general agreement on President Obama's earlier proposal for nuclear disarmament, Russian President Medvedev showed a cautious view on Monday by citing several conditions for acceptance of the proposal. Russia's concern that the U.S. could establish a military advantage if Russia proceeds with a large-scale nuclear reduction along with the U.S. lies behind his cautious position. The U.S. and Russia will begin on April 24 talks about a successor to the START-1 nuclear arms reduction treaty. Russia plans to call for maintaining the balance of power during the talks."

¶3. "Russia to Limit U.S. Leadership in Nuclear Reduction Talks" The conservative Sankei's correspondent report from Moscow said (4/22): "Russian President Medvedev said on Monday that a successor to the START-1 nuclear arms reduction treaty, which expires in December, should limit the number of delivery systems, such as ICBMs, in addition to that of strategic nuclear warheads. The statement was apparently aimed at preventing the bilateral nuclear reduction talks, which will start in Rome on April 24, from proceeding under U.S. initiatives. Twists and turns are likely to occur in negotiations between the U.S. and Russia. Russia is behind the U.S. in advanced nuclear technology. The talks could slightly affect the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and Russia, which has been reset."

ZUMWALT